

GRADUATE SCHOOL P L A N N I N G

IS GRADUATE SCHOOL FOR YOU?

Things to Consider:

- How genuinely interested are you in this field?
- How will a graduate degree improve your career prospects?
- Will grad school help advance your career?
- How will you pay for it?
- Is it worth your effort?
- How is being a graduate student different from being an undergrad?
- How well have you performed academically as an undergrad?

FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING A PROGRAM

There are many factors to consider when choosing the right graduate program for you. Here are a few (not listed in order of importance):

Reputation	Student services	Placement
Faculty	Financial considerations	PT/FT programs
Curriculum	Student organizations	Joint degree
Special programs	Geographic location	Diversity
Academic support	Surrounding community	Ranking
Intern/Externships	Size of school	Other personal factors

PREPARING FOR ADMISSION

There are several things to keep in mind when preparing to apply to a graduate school. Be sure to check EACH program for their application requirements and procedures since they may DIFFER from program to program. SOME items to consider:

- Watch application deadlines!
- Apply to program and university (if applicable)
- Coursework preparation
- G.P.A.
- Standardized test score
- Transcripts
- Personal statement
- Letters of Recommendation
- Co- curricular activities
- Research experience
- Any supplemental information
- Contact department with any questions

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL INTERVIEW - ARE YOU PREPARED?

Not all graduate school programs require you to attend an interview. However, preparation is key to a successful graduate school interview. Meet a Career Counselor for more information on specific fields. The Mock Interview Tool in SCOTLink makes it easy to refine your interviewing skills. Start practicing today by logging on to SCOTLink at careers.ucr.edu.

The following are general interview questions:

1. Tell me about yourself. (Describe your academic background, relevant experiences and why you want to go to grad school.)
2. How did you choose UCR and your major? (Show your decision making for major area and college.)
3. Why this university? (Again, decision making.)
4. What courses and activities have you engaged in to prepare yourself for graduate school?
5. How will you fund your graduate education? (How much time will you have to study.)
6. What do you know about our graduate program? (Display you want this program.)
7. What area of specialty do you have? (Highlight any experiences, courses, etc.)
8. Why graduate school, why not get practical experience first?
9. How would your recommenders describe your strengths? Your weaknesses?
10. Describe a challenging time during your academic work at UCR that you had to overcome.

WEBSITES

- UCR GRAD SCHOOL RESOURCES**
careers.ucr.edu
www.healthprofessions.ucr.edu/
www.arc.ucr.edu
ucop.edu/journey
- GENERAL GRAD SCHOOL INFORMATION (LISTS AREAS OF STUDY)**
www.gradschools.com
www.petersons.com
- RANKINGS**
gradschools.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-graduate-schools
www.washingtonmonthly.com/
www.college_guide/index.php

GRADUATE SCHOOL PREPARATION

SUGGESTED TIMELINE

Here is a suggested timeline for graduate school applications. Use as a guide for the application process so you can be fully prepared.

WINTER/SPRING QUARTER – JUNIOR YEAR

- Start researching/visiting schools
- Begin writing your personal statement
- Identify writers of your letters of recommendation
- Gain co-curricular experience to diversify your application
- Open a letter of recommendation file on Interfolio
- Register and take appropriate entrance exams (GRE, MCAT, GMAT, LSAT, etc.)
- Register with appropriate service: LSDAS (if law school applicant), AMCAS (if medical school applicant); typically start applying by June 1st but date changes each year

SUMMER

- Research/visit schools
- Work on your personal statement
- Identify writers of your letters of recommendation
- Gain co-curricular experience to diversify your application
- Begin sending for graduate school applications
- Make checklist and schedule for each application
- Complete and submit medical school applications (if applicable)
- Register and take appropriate entrance exams (GRE, GMAT, LSAT, etc.) (if you haven't already)

FALL/WINTER QUARTER – SENIOR YEAR

- Register and take appropriate entrance exams (GRE, GMAT, LSAT, etc.) (if you haven't already)
- Complete applications and submit
- Finish personal statement
- Collect letters of recommendation
- Attend appropriate graduate school forums/events
- Apply for awards
- Submit financial aid applications

SPRING QUARTER – SENIOR YEAR

- Secure financing
- Submit tuition/housing deposits upon acceptance to school in which you enroll

SOCIAL MEDIA

#HireHighlanders #UCRCareerReady

